

¹⁹ HIS
MAIESTIES
DECLARATION,
To all His loving
SVBIECTS.

Published with the advice of
His Privie Councell.



London Printed, 1641.

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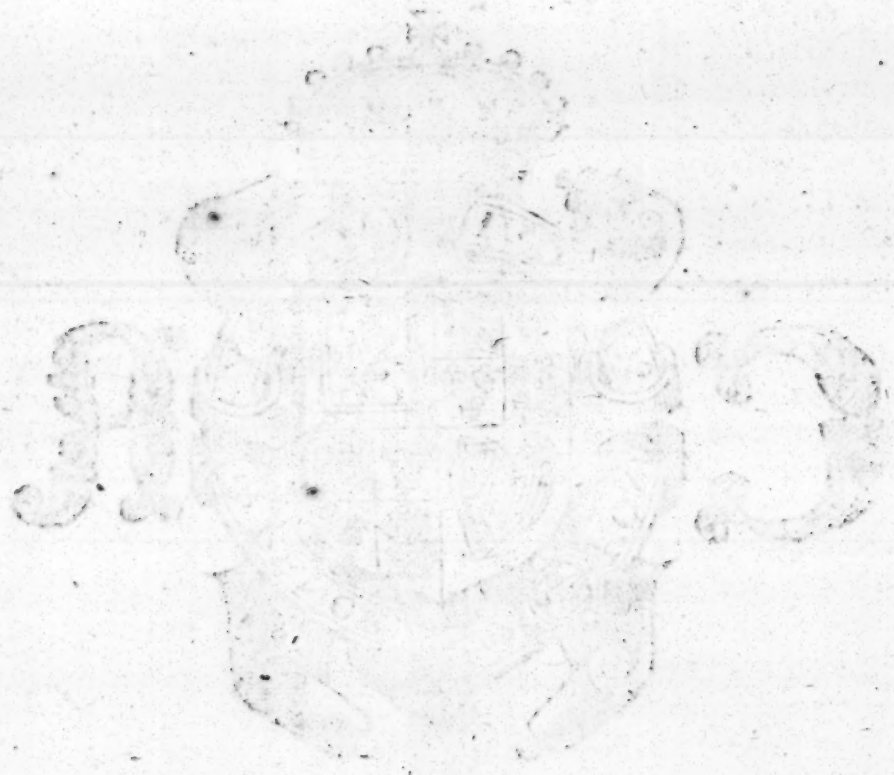
MANIFESTS

DECLARATION

of his loving

SUBJECTS

Published with the advice of
the Privy Council



London: Printed by I. Baskett, at the Sign of the Sun in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1678.

His Majesties Declaration, To all His Loving Subiects.

Published with the advice of His Privie Councell.

Although We do not beleve that Our House of Commons intended, by their Remonstrance of the State of the Kingdome, to put Us to any Apology, either for Our past or present Actions; Notwithstanding, since they have thought it so very necessary (upon their observation of the present distemper) to publish the same, for the satisfaction of all Our loving Subjects, We have thought it very suitable to the duty of our place, (with which God hath trusted Us) to do Our part to so good a work, in which We shall not think it below Our Kingly dignity to descend to any particular, which may compose and settle the affections of Our meanest Subjects, since We are so conscious of Our Self of such upright Intentions and endeavors, and only of such (for which We give God thanks) for the Peace and Happinesse of Our Kingdom, in which the prosperity of Our Subjects must be included, that we wish from Our heart, that even Our most secret thoughts were published to their view and examination; though We must confesse We cannot but be very sorry in this conjuncture of time (when the unhappinesse of this Kingdom is so generally understood abroad) there should be such a necessity of publishing so many particulars, from which, We pray, no inconveniences may ensue that were not intended.

We shall in few words passe over the part of the narrative, wherein the misfortunes of this Kingdom from Our first entring to the Crown, to the beginning of this Parliament, are remembred in so sensible expressions; And that other which acknowledgeth the many good Laws passed by Our Grace and Favour this Parliament, for the security of Our people; Of which We shal onely say thus much, That as We have not refused to passe any Bill presented to Us by our Parliament for redresse of those grievances mentioned in the Remonstrance, so We have

not had a greater motive for the passing those Laws then Our own resolution (grounded upon our observation, & understanding the State of our King dom) to have freed our Subjects for the future, from those pressures which were grievous to them if those Laws had not been propounded, which therefore We shall as inviolably maintain, as We look to have Our own Rights preserved, not doubting but all Our loving Subjects will look on those Remedies, with that full gratitude & affection, that even the memory of what they have formerly undergone by the Accidents and necessities of those times, will not be unpleasant to them: And possibly in a pious sence of Gods blessing upon this Nation (how little share soever We shall have of the acknowledgement) they wil confesse they have enjoyed a great measure of happinesse (even these last six or seven years) both in peace and plenty, not onely comparatively in respect of their Neighbours, but even of those times which were justly accounted Fortunate.

The Fears and Jealousies which may make some impression in the minds of Our People, We will suppose may be of two sorts, either for Religion, or Liberty, and their civil Interests. The Fears for Religion may haply be, not onely as Ours here established may be invaded by the Romish party, but as it is accompanied with some Ceremonies, at which some tender consciences really are, or pretend to be scandalized, for of any other which have been used without any legall warrant or injunction, and already are, or speedily may be abolished, We shall not speak.

Concerning religion, as there may be any suspicion of favour or inclination to the Papists, We are willing to declare to all the world, That as We have been from our childhood brought up in, and practised the religion now established in this Kingdom; so it is well known, We have (not contented simply with the principles of Our Education) given a good proportion of Our time & pains, to the examination of the grounds of this religion, as it is different from that of Rome, and are from Our soul so fully satisfied and assured, that it is most pure, and agreeable to the Sacred VVord of God, of any religion now practised in the Christian world: That as VVe beleieve VVe can maintain the same by unanswerable reasons, so VVe hope VVe should readily seal to it by the effusion of Our Blood, if it pleased God to call Us to that sacrifice. And therefore nothing can be so acceptable unto Us, as any proposition which may contribute to the advancement of it here, or the propagation of it abroad, being the onely means to draw down a blessing from God upon Our selves & this Nation. And VVe have

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been extremely unfortunate, if this profession of Ours be wanting to Our people: Our constant practice in Our own Person, having alwaies been (without ostentation) as much to the evidence of Our care and duty herein, as VVe could possibly tell how to expresse.

For differences amongst our selves, for matters indifferent in their own nature concerning religion, VVe shall, in tenderneffe to any number of Our loving Subjects, very willingly comply with the advice of Our Parliament, that some Law may be made for the exemption of tender consciences from punishment, or prosecution for such Ceremonies, in such cases which by the judgement of most men, are held to be matters indifferent, and of some to be absolutely unlawfull. Provided that this case be attempted, and pursued with that modesty, temper and submission, that in the mean time the peace and quiet of the Kingdom be not disturbed, the decency and comlineffe of Gods Service discountenanced, nor the pious, sober, and devout actions of those reverend Persons, who were the first labourers in that blessed reformation, or of that time, be scandall and defamed. For VVe cannot without grief of heart, and without some tax upon Our Self, and Our Ministers for the not execution of Our Laws, look upon the bold Licence of some men, in printing of Pamphlets, in Preaching and printing of Sermons, so full of bitterneffe and malice against the present Government, against the Laws established, so full of sedition against Our Self, and the peace of the Kingdom, that VVe are many times amazed to consider by what Eyes these things are seen, and by what Eares they are heard; And therefore VVe have good cause to command, as We have done, and hereby do, all our Judges and Ministers of justice, Our Attorney and Sollicitor Generall, and the rest of Our learned Councell, to proceed with all speed against such, and their Abettors, who either by writing or words have so boldly and maliciously violated the Laws, disturbed the peace of the Commonwealth, and, as much as in them lies, shaken the very foundation upon which that peace and happineffe is founded and constituted. And We doubt not but all Our loving Subjects, will be very sensible that this busie, virulent demeanour, is a fit Prologue to nothing but confusion; and if not very reasonably punished and prevented, will not onely be a blemish to the wholesome accommodation We intend, but an unspeakable scandall and imputation, even upon the profession and religion of this Our Kingdome of England.

Concerning the Civill Liberties and Interest of Our Subjects, We shall need to say the lesse, having erected so many lasting Monu-
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ments

ments of Our Princely and fatherly care of Our People, in those many excellent Lawes passed by Us this Parliament, which in truth (with very much content to Our Selfe) VVe conceive to be so large and ample, that very many sober men have very little to wish for.

We understood well the Right, and pretences of Right We departed from in the consenting to the Bills of the Triennial Parliament, for the continuance of this present Parliament, and in the preamble to the Bill of Tunnage and Poundage; the matter of which having begot so many disturbances in late Parliaments, We were willing to remove, that no interest of Ours might hereafter break that correspondency, abundantly contenting Our selfe with an Assurance (which We still have) that we should be repaired & supplied by a just proportion of confidence, bounty, & obedience of our people. In the Bills for the taking away the High Commission and Star-chamber Courts, We believed We had given that reall satisfaction, that all jealousies and apprehensions of Arbitrary pressures under the Civill or Ecclesiasticall state, would easily have been abandoned, especially when they saw all possible doubts secured by the visitation of a Triennial Parliament.

These, and others of no meane consideration, We had rather should be valued in the hearts and affections of Our people, then in any mention of Our own, not doubting, but as We have taken all these occasions to render their condition most comfortable and happy, so they will alwayes in a gratefull, and deuitfull relation, be ready with equal tenderneffe and alacrity, to advance Our Rights, and preserve our Honour, upon which their own security and substance so much depends. And We will be so careful, that no particular shall be presented unto Us for the compleating and establishing that security, to which We will not with the same readinesse contribute Our best assistance.

If these resolutions be the effects of Our present Councells, (and We take God to witnesse that they are such, and that all Our loving Subjects may confidently expect the benefit of them from Us) Certainly no ill design upon the publike can accompany such resolutions, neither will there be great cause of suspicion of any Persons preferred by Us to degrees of honour, and places of trust and imployment since this Parliament. And We must confesse, that amongst Our misfortunes, We reckon it not the least, That having not retained in Our Service, nor protected any one Person, against whom Our Parliament hath excepted, during the whole sitting of it, and having in all that time scarce vouchsafed to any man an instance of Our Grace and Fa-

your, but to such who were under some eminent Character of Estimation among Our people, there should so soone be any misunderstanding or jealousie of their fidelity and uprightnesse, especially in a time when We take all occasions to declare, That we conceive Our self only capable of being served by honest Men, and in honest wayes. How ever, if in truth We have been mistaken in such Our election, the particular shall be no sooner discovered to Us, either by Our own observation, or other certaine information, then We wil leave them to Publike Justice, under the markes of Our displeasure.

If notwithstanding this, any malignant Party shall take heart, and be willing to sacrifice the Peace and Happinesse of their Countrey to their own sinister ends and ambitions, under what pretence of Religion and Conscience soever; If they shall endeavour to lessen our Reputation and interest, and to weaken Our Lawfull Power, and Authority with Our good Subjects, if they shall go about, by discountenancing the present Laws, to loosen the Bonds of Government, that all disorder & confusion may break in upon Us, We doubt not, but God in his good time will discover them unto Us; and the wisdom and courage of Our High Court of Parliament joyn with Us in their suppression and punishment.

Having now said all that We can, to expresse the clearenesse and uprightnesse of Our Intentions to Our people, & done all we can to manifest those Intentions, We cannot but confidently believe al Our good Subjects will acknowledge Our part to be fully performed, both in deeds past, and present Resolutions, to do whatsoever with Justice may be required of Us, and that their quiet and prosperity depends now wholly upon themselves, and is in their own power, by yeelding all obedience and due reverence to the Law, which is the inheritance of every subject, and the only security he can have for his Life, Liberty, or Estate, and the which being neglected or disesteemed (under what specious shews soever) a great measure of infelicity, if not an irreparable confusion must without doubt fall upon them. And We doubt not it will be the most acceptable Declaration a King can make to His Subjects, that for Our part We are resolved not onely duly to observe the Laws Our selfe, but to maintaine them against what opposition soever, though with the hazard of Our being.

And Our hope is, that not only the Loyalty and good Affections of all Our loving Subjects, will concur with Us in the constant preserving a good understanding betweene Us and Our people, but at this time their own, and Our interest and compassion of the lamentable

condition of Our poore Protestant Subjects in *Ireland*, will invite them to a faire intelligence and unity amongst themselves, that so we may with one heart intend the relieving & recovering that unhappy Kingdome, where those barbarous rebels practise such inhumane and unheard of Outrages upon Our miserable people, that no Christian ear can hear without horreur, nor story paralell. And as We look upon this, as the greatest affliction it hath pleased God to lay upon Us, so Our unhappinesse is increased, in that by the distempers at home so early remedies have not been applied to those growing evils as the expectation and necessity there requires, though for Our part, as VVe did upon the first notice acquaint Our Parliament of *Scotland* (where VVe then were) with that rebellion, requiring their aid and assistance, and gave like speedy intimation and recommendation to Our Parliament here; so since Our return hither, VVe have been forward to all things which have been proposed to Us towards that work, and have lately Our Selfe offered (by a Message to Our House of Peers, and communicated to Our House of Commons) to take upon Us the care to raise speedily ten thousand English Voluntiers for that service if the House of Commons shall declare that they will pay them; which particulars VVe are (in a manner) necessitated to publish, since VVe are informed that the malice of some persons hath whispered it abroad, that the no speedier advancing of this businesse hath proceeded from some want of alacrity in Us to this great work, whereas VVe acknowledge it a high crime against Almighty God, and inexcusable to our good Subjects of Our three Kingdoms, if VVe did not to the utmost employ all Our powers and faculties to the speediest and most effectuall assistance and protection of that distressed people.

And we shall now conjure all Our good Subjects (of what degree soever) by all the Bonds of Love, Duty, or Obedience, that are precious to good men, to joyn with Us for the Recovery of the Peace of that Kingdome, and the preservation of the Peace of this, to remove all their Doubts and Feares, which may interrupt their affection to Us, and all their Jealousies and apprehension which may lessen their Charity to each other, and then (if the sins of this Nation have not prepared an inevitable Judgement for us all) God will yet make Us a Great and a Glorious King over a Free and Happy People.

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